II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Shall we take up Questions and Answers now or adjourn? It is left to hon. Members. The position is this. We can consider the Budget for five hours. If half an hour is taken up by Questions and Answers, we will have 4½ hours. We will meet between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. or between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. We shall now take up Questions and Answers." 11-20 a.m.

Contribution towards the expenses of Constituent Assembly.

* 80 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state what financial contribution has been made or is proposed to be made by the Madras Government, towards the expenses of the Constituent Assembly?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" No contribution has been made or is proposed to be made by this Government towards the expenses of the Constituent Assembly."

Revival of time-gun.

* 81 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government propose to order the revival of the time-gun in order that the citizens of Madras City may get to know the exact time?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" The question was taken up with the local military authorities soon after the cessation of hostilities, but as the necessary ammunition is now obsolete and no stock is available, it has not been possible to revive the time-gun signal at Madras. The Government propose to address the Government of India to see if a modern gun can be secured."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : " Will the Government consider any other method by which people can know the exact time? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Yes, Sir; it will be considered."

Audit of co-operative societies.

* 82 Q.—MR. K. O. ANTHONI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the concurrent audit of co-operative societies takes place months after the concerned month;

(b) whether the final audit of co-operative societies takes place several months after the close of the co-operative year; and

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, what the cause for the delay is and what steps the Government are going to take to see that the concurrent and final audits are made in time?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" (*a*) Concurrent audit is provided for certain bigger co-operative institutions with heavy transactions such as district central banks, district wholesale stores, big urban banks, stores societies, weavers' societies, marketing societies, milk-supply societies, etc. It is generally done monthly or quarterly and the accounts are taken up for audit soon after the close of the month or quarter, as the case may be. While every effort is being made to keep the concurrent audit of societies up to date, it has not been possible to keep up to the schedule on account of the increase in number of societies and the volume of transactions and in such cases some delay is unavoidable.

" (*b*) The programme for final or annual audit is so drawn up as to provide for the completion of the audit of all societies before the end of January, i.e., within 7 months after the close of the Co-operative year. In this programme priority is given to central banks whose audit is expected to be completed by the month of August, district wholesale stores whose audit is to be completed by the end of September and primary stores, urban banks, weavers' societies and other societies paying audit fees, whose audit is scheduled to be completed by the end of November. Here also it is not possible to adhere to the schedule. This year, due to the special arrangements made, it is hoped to complete the audit of all societies earlier.

" (*c*) The delay in audit is mainly due to the following causes :—

(i) During the last few years, the number of societies have increased with no corresponding increase in the audit staff.

(ii) The audit of rural credit societies, which form the majority of societies, now take more time consequent on several of them having undertaken procurement of foodgrains and distribution of controlled articles.

(iii) The transactions of non-credit societies, especially stores societies and weavers' societies and milk-supply societies have increased considerably in volume.

(iv) inadequacy of audit staff; and

(v) the manning of a large number of posts with untrained men under emergency provisions owing to the dearth of trained men. To speed up concurrent audit the Registrar has asked bigger co-operative institutions in each district to form themselves into groups and take the services of Senior Inspectors or Junior Inspectors as the case may be for the exclusive audit of their accounts. The Registrar is also examining the possibility whether the central banks and district co-operative wholesale stores cannot employ staff exclusively for their audit and release the departmental staff employed for their concurrent audit so that the staff may be available for the audit of smaller societies. The Registrar has also submitted proposals for the employment of additional staff for audit work and those proposals are under consideration."

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MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" Will the Hon. Minister take information from me that there are very many societies in which the concurrent and final audit has been considerably delayed? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I take the information from the hon. Member and I shall certainly go into the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know how long it will take for the Government to come to a decision regarding the steps to be taken for increasing the audit staff? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" We have come to a decision, Sir, and very soon it will be put into effect."

Starting of cement factories.

* 83 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government of India invited by a Press Note applications for starting cement factories;

(*b*) whether in response to it a number of persons and institutions applied and if so who they are with full particulars;

(*c*) whether the Government of Madras recommended all or any of the applications;

(*d*) whether the Government of India accepted all or any of the recommendations;

(*e*) who the persons are whose applications were approved by the Government of India;

(*f*) whether one of the applications recommended by the Government of Madras was one submitted by Sri Rao Bahadur B. P. Sesha Reddi of Kurnool and others;

(*g*) whether the Government of India did not sanction the application referred to in (*f*) in the first instance;

(*h*) whether the Government of Madras time and again pressed for the favourable consideration of Sri Rao Bahadur Sesha Reddi's application as a special case;

(*i*) whether the Government of India as a special case approved the application of Sri Rao Bahadur B. P. Sesha Reddi for one unit of fifty thousand tons capacity for a factory at Kurnool;

(*j*) whether it is a fact that on receipt of this sanction of the Government of India, Sri Rao Bahadur B. P. Sesha Reddi was informed by telegram by this Government not to enter into any commitments as they had represented to the Government of India that Madras Government desire to establish cement as well as other basic industries as nationalized industries;

(*k*) whether the Government of Madras refused to recommend to the Government of India applications for capital issue and for registration of capital goods required for the cement factory which have long been pending with them; and

(*l*) what the policy of the Government is on nationalization in general and with special reference to cement in particular?